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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/222,833	12/30/1998	TADASHI OHASHI	1341.1025/JD	2628

7590

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STAAS & HALSEY
JAMES D HALSEY
SUITE 500
700 ELEVENTH STREET N W
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

EXAMINER

HUYNH, CONG LAC T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

HG

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/222,833

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

Examiner

Cong-Lac Huynh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: amendment filed on 4/19/01 to the application filed on 12/30/98.
2. Claims 1-9 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 7, and 8 are independent claims.
3. The rejections of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Hashimoto in view of Domen and Taylor have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

Priority

4. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beizer et al. (US Pat No. 6,240,414 B1, 5/29/01, filed 8/19/98, priority 9/28/97).

Regarding independent claim 1, Beizer discloses:

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- storing a plurality of documents (figure 2, electronic documents are stored in, repositories, #42)
- acquiring information from a device connected to the communication network (figure 2, electronic documents are acquired from a terminal connected to the network, #31, #34, #36, #38, #42)
- determining, for each document stored in the document storage section by reading out the master attribute information maintained by said information management device through said communication section, whether the attribute information included in the document conflicts with the master attribute information (col 3, lines 1-30; col 7, lines 23-67, to find the data conflict, each data element in the WorkFolder is examined and compared with the current master copy of the WorkFolder; col 8, lines 1-32, 45 to col 9, lines 1-17, a conflict can be introduced by changes made in the content, attributes and structure of the WorkFolder)

Beizer also disclose that the electronic documents are *used/produced when performing jobs* (col 1, lines 19-39, documents may need to *be available...* on various transaction-related tasks).

Beizer does not explicitly disclose rewriting any of the *attribute information* included in the document when the conflict between the master attribute information and the attribute information is determined.

Instead Beizer discloses rewriting the *data value* in the master folder when a conflict is determined between the value in the master folder and the local folder (figure 3a, Master Copy of WorkFolder and Local Copy of original WorkFolder; figure 3d, #66-#74,

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if the updated value is not the same as the saved value, apply the updated value to master workfolder).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Beizer to include rewriting the *attribute information* included in the document when the conflict between the master attribute information and the attribute information is determined for the following reason. Beizer discloses *rewriting of data value* when the conflict is determined (figure 3d, #66-#74) and the *conflict is also determined by the changes of the attributes of the items* (col 8, lines 45-67, conflicting changes to any attributes of an item...conflicts to either attributes or data for these items are treated as a single conflict...) thus motivating further rewriting the *attribute information* when the attributes are found changed.

Independent claim 7 is for a computer-readable medium for claim 1, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Independent claim 8 is for a computer system for claim 1, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Independent claim 9 is for a system for managing electronic documents of claim 1, and therefore, is rejected under the same rationale.

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7. Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beizer as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Domen et al. (US Pat No. 5,504,676, 4/2/96, filed 5/26/94).

Regarding to claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Beizer does not disclose:

- each document comprises corporate organization codes as well as corporate organization names as attribute information used to manage distribution targets of each document
- the attribute information included in a document conflicts with the master attribute information in a case where the corporate organization codes included in said document are stored in the master attribute information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein, and also in the case where the corporate organization names included in said document are stored in the master attribute information but the combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein
- rewriting corporate organization names and rewriting corporate organization codes in said document when the above conflicts are determined

Domen discloses:

- said document is a document including the corporate organization code and the corporate organization name (the ordering slip includes the department name and

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the department code (col 6, lines 15-27, 29-34, 45-50; col 7, lines 62-67; col 8, lines 5-11)

- updating of the format and data once per several times of use (col 1, lines 7-14, 26-34; col 2, lines 15-21)

Domen does not explicitly disclose the cases of conflict when an organization code is included in a document but the combination of the organization code and the organization name is not included in the master information, or when the organization name is included in a document but the combination of the organization code and the organization name is not included in the master information.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Domen into Beizer because of the following reason. Domen provides the data of a document including the department name and the department code for distribution an item where attribute information of the item is stored the database, and Beizer provides updating a document if a conflict of the master attribute information with the local attribute information is detected. The combination of Domen and Beizer would provide the ability to rewrite and update any changes when the conflict between the master data and the local data about the department code and the department name is determined. The changes, as mentioned above in claim 1, may contain the change of the attributes of an item or the data for an item (col 8, lines 45-67). The missing of a combination of an organization code and an organization name in the master data is considered as a conflict, and the missing data, therefore is updated in the master document.

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Regarding claim 3, which is dependent on claim 2, Beizer discloses:

- a master workfolder and a local workfolder (figure 3a)
- rewriting the content of the document when a conflict between the master document and the local document is found (col 7, lines 40-62)

Beizer does not disclose:

- maintaining *second master attribute information*, in which a corporate organization code or a corporate organization name can be retrieved using job information, is connected to the communication network
- retrieving a corporate organization code or a corporate organization name correlated to job information of the document from the second master attribute information
- rewriting contents of said document, when a combination of the corporate organization code with the corporate organization name retrieved does not coincide with the combination of the corporate organization code with the corporate organization name included in the document

Domen discloses:

- retrieving of the department name and the department code corresponding to each ordering slip (col 6, lines 29-50, the department name and the corresponding department code are displayed, this implies the department name and the department code are retrieved for displaying)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Domen and Beizer to include the second master attribute

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information for storing the corporate organization code and the corporate organization name, which are attribute information of an item, and to include rewriting the content of said document, when a combination of the corporate organization code with the corporate organization name retrieved does not coincide with the combination of the corporate organization code with the corporate organization name included in the document. As mentioned in claim 1 above, Beizer allows rewriting a document if the conflict of values or attributes of an item is detected. Therefore, the case when the combination of the corporate organization code and the corporate organization name retrieved from the master attributes does not coincide with the combination of the corporate organization code and the corporate organization name included in the document, is the case when the conflict is found between the values of an item in the master documents and the values of an item between the local documents.

Regarding claims 4-6, which are dependent on claims 1-3 respectively, Domen discloses the using of an electronic email to notify things to other work station (command is issued from a terminal .. the prepared form may be transmitted to other work station by an electronic mail (col 2, lines 31-34)). It is noted that Domen does not disclose the notification of changing of attribute information in the document to each department. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Domen to include the notification of changing of attribute information in the document to each department since the using of electronic email to notify things to other workstation motivates the notification of the

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changing of attribute information to each department through the communication network using department addresses. Also, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Domen into Beizer to provide a notification of changing attribute information to the party who needs such information when a data changing is found in addition to rewriting data when the conflict is found.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicants argue that:

(a) in Taylor job means employment and Taylor relates to searching employment advertisements whereas in the present invention, *job means a task*, for example, of creating documents such as drawings.

(b) the present invention, as recited in the amended independent claims 1, 7 and 9 is directed to "managing electronic documents *used/produced when performing jobs.*"

Examiner agrees.

Beizer, cited in this office action, discloses that job means a task, and the documents are *used/produced when performing jobs* (col 1, lines 19-29, certain documents may need to be available prior to commencing work on various transaction-related task).

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bettels (US Pat No. 5,678,045, 10/14/97, filed 12/6/93).

Okura (US Pat No. 5,829,003, 10/27/98, filed 5/13/96).

Fahey (US Pat No. 5,970,476, 10/19/99, filed 9/19/96).

Walker et al. (US Pat No. 6,144,948, 11/7/00, filed 6/23/97).

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is (703)-305-0432. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax number to this Art Unit is (703) 305-9731.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

12. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

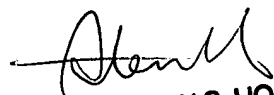
Or:

(703) 308-5403 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA. Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

clh

2/4/02


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER